

Wylie-Miller Barn
U. S. Route 19 (about 4 miles north
of Washington)
Washington Vicinity
Washington County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-427

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-427

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WYLIE-MILLER BARN

Address: U. S. Route #19, 4 miles north of Washington,
Washington Vicinity, Washington County, Pennsylvania

Present Owner: Mrs. Leila Wylie Miller of above address (house
is on this property)

Present Occupant: Various tenant farmers

Present Use: Rented barn

Brief Statement Good example of a frame octagonal barn of the
of Significance: later 19th century. Original building is unchanged.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and Subsequent Owners: 1888, Robert Wylie. The property has remained in the Wylie and Miller families to the present.
- B. Date of Erection: 1888
- C. Architect: John Vester
- D. Builder: McPeak Brothers
- E. Sources of Information: Pertinent historical information obtained from discussion with Robert Wylie Jr.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement
 - 1. Architectural character: Good example of a frame octagonal barn of the later 19th century
 - 2. Condition of fabric: Poor
- B. Technical Description of Exterior
 - 1. Over-all dimensions: 60'-8" x 60'-8", two stories, octagonal in plan
 - 2. Foundations: Rubble stone
 - 3. Wall construction: Frame wall construction, vertical V-groove) tongue-and-groove board siding - 1" x 8". Originally painted white - now raw wood is exposed. Siding lapped at second-floor level.

4. Structural system, framing: Timber and plank framing - octagonal plan with octagonal cupola in the center of an eight-paneled truncated pyramidal roof. Second floor joists, 2" x 12", 16" on center supported by a 12" x 12" timber plate continuous around the perimeter of the building, and two 12" x 12" beams spanning between the corners of the east and west wall panels and supported by columns of irregular spacing. The main roof beams, 4" x 12", occur at the ridge points and at the mid-points of each roof panel and rest on an 8" x 8" plate supported by posts along the outer wall. These beams terminate at a 12'-0" octagonal frame which supports the louvered cupola. 4" x 8" purlins 6'-0" on center span between the roof beams and support the 2" x 4" joists, 2'-0" on center.

5. Openings:

- a. Doors: Lower level, large double sliding doors on the west wall. Dutch door on the east side. Upper level, large double sliding doors on the north and south walls (simple V-groove board and batten).
- b. Windows: Lower level, four-light operable sash with peaked architraves. Upper level, (except south wall) double tier of rectangular louvered vents with peaked architraves. Upper level, south wall: Double sliding doors with two circular louvered vents above, and flanked by four-light operable wood sash.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape: Eight-paneled truncated pyramidal roof topped with an octagonal cupola which also has an eight-paneled pyramidal roof.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Simple cymation and cavetto molding.
- c. Cupola: Octagonal cupola with louvered sides.

C. Technical Description of Interior

- 1. Floor plans: Both floors have simple octagonal plans with small utility stair on the northeast wall. Series of stalls in the southern part of the lower level.
- 2. Stairways: Small utility stair on the northeast wall.

3. Flooring: Upper floor, tongue-and-groove planks. 1" x 8" plank subflooring running east-west - 1" x 6" plank finished flooring running north-south (except in the north-east, southeast, northwest, and southwest corners where the boards are perpendicular to the wall surface).
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Lower floor, heavy timber sills on low masonry walls with exposed board siding above.
Upper floor, exposed wood siding, roof structure exposed.

D. Site: This barn is one of several outbuildings on a small farm, located just off four-lane state highway on a generally hilly setting. The main house, to the east, was built c. 1840; small one-story octagonal playhouse to the rear of the main house built c. 1900. There is an unimproved road to north.

Prepared by John D. Milner, Architect
National Park Service
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